

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented): An insulating panel for a conditioned-air distribution duct, the insulating panel comprising:

at least one insulating core based on mineral wool, preferably on rock wool, and possibly comprising an exterior layer based on a thin skin of aluminum,

wherein on one exterior face the insulating panel includes a plurality of marks that are straight and oblique with respect to a longitudinal direction of the insulating panel, the marks forming two sets of opposing inclinations oriented at an angle γ with respect to the longitudinal direction.

22. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim [[21]] 28, wherein the angle γ is substantially between 82.5° and 52.5° and preferably substantially equal to 67.5° .

23. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim [[21]] 28, wherein the exterior face also includes a plurality of transverse straight marks oriented at right angles to the longitudinal direction.

24. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim 23, wherein the exterior face also includes a plurality of longitudinal straight marks oriented parallel to the longitudinal direction.

25. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim 24, wherein the oblique straight marks, and/or the transverse straight marks, and/or the longitudinal straight marks are embodied at least near longitudinal edges and preferably across an entire surface of an exterior face.

26. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim 24, wherein the oblique straight marks, and/or the transverse straight marks, and/or the longitudinal straight marks are embodied on a surface of an exterior face of the exterior layer.

27. (Currently Amended): The ~~insulating panel~~ distribution duct as claimed in claim 24, wherein the transverse straight marks and/or the longitudinal straight marks intersect the oblique straight marks at points where longitudinal straight marks of opposing inclination intersect.

28. (Currently Amended): A distribution duct having a substantially parallelepipedal cross section, the duct ~~being made from~~ comprising:

at least one insulating panel ~~as claimed in claim 24~~ including at least one insulating core based on mineral wool, preferably on rock wool, and possibly comprising an exterior layer based on a thin skin of aluminum,

wherein one exterior face the insulating panel includes a plurality of marks that are straight and oblique with respect to a longitudinal direction of the insulating panel, the marks forming two sets of opposing inclinations oriented at an angle γ with respect to the longitudinal direction.

29. (Previously Presented): The distribution duct as claimed in claim 28, wherein the duct has a main longitudinal axis P and at least one change of direction C at an angle β , altering the main longitudinal axis P into a downstream axis P', P'', the angle β being substantially between 30° and 60° and preferably substantially equal to 45°.

30. (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing a distribution duct with a substantially parallelepipedal cross section, comprising:

using at least one insulating panel as claimed in claim 21 including at least one insulating core based on mineral wool, preferably on rock wool, and possibly comprising an exterior layer based on a thin skin of aluminum,

wherein one exterior face the insulating panel includes a plurality of marks that are straight and oblique with respect to a longitudinal direction of the insulating panel, the marks forming two sets of opposing inclinations oriented at an angle γ with respect to the longitudinal direction.

31. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the duct has a main longitudinal axis P and at least one change of direction C at an angle β , altering the main longitudinal axis P into a downstream axis P', P'', the angle β being substantially between 30° and 60° and preferably substantially equal to 45°.

32. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the change in direction C is achieved by cutting each of the faces of the duct from a flat panel.

33. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the faces of the duct that are parallel to the plane containing the change in direction C each have more than four sides in this plane and preferably have six sides or eight sides.

34. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the change in direction C is achieved by completely sectioning a duct into a primary portion and possibly a secondary portion, and possibly rotating the primary portion or the secondary portion about its main axis.

35. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sectioning is performed on two faces parallel to the plane containing the change in direction C at the angle β , measured with respect to a transverse direction of these faces, and on the other two faces in a transverse direction of these faces.

36. (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the cutting or the sectioning is performed using a cutting instrument having two blades situated in a same plane, cutting edges of the respective blades being directed at opposing inclinations and a first cutting edge being shorter in height than a second cutting edge in overall cutting or sectioning direction.

37. (Previously Presented): A cutting instrument for cutting at least one insulating panel as claimed in claim 21, having two blades situated in a same plane, cutting edges of the respective blades being directed at opposing inclinations and a first cutting edge being shorter in height than a second cutting edge in overall cutting direction.

38. (Previously Presented): The cutting instrument as claimed in claim 37, wherein the blades are directed at an angle δ with respect to a guide surface.

39. (Previously Presented): The cutting instrument as claimed in claim 38, wherein $\gamma = \delta$.

40. (Previously Presented): The cutting instrument as claimed in claim 37, wherein the first cutting edge has a height shorter than a total thickness of the panel and the second cutting edge has a height greater than a total thickness of the panel.